

## REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated September 23, 2002. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Claims 1-21 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn. In the "Request for Filing a Divisional Application" filed with the present application, Applicants canceled claims 22-29 of the application in paragraph 5. Thus, only claims 1-21 are presently pending. As recognized by the Examiner, pending claims 1-21 are all drawn to the same invention -- a method for forming a low resistivity titanium silicide layer. Therefore, it is submitted that the restriction requirement contained in the present Office Action is improper and should be withdrawn.

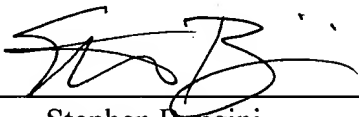
If the Examiner does not withdraw the restriction requirement, Applicants elect for continued prosecution of the Group I claims (i.e., claims 1-21) drawn to a method for forming a low resistivity titanium silicide layer. All other claims have already been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
Stephen Bongini  
Registration No. 40,917  
Attorney for Applicants

FLEIT, KAIN, GIBBONS,  
GUTMAN & BONGINI P.L.  
One Boca Commerce Center  
551 Northwest 77th Street, Suite 111  
Boca Raton, Florida 33487  
Telephone: (561) 989-9811  
Facsimile: (561) 989-9812